

BEEKEEPING & DICAMBA

AK

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The retail side of Arkansas's largest commercial beekeeper has gone out of business, and the owner is blaming the controversial weedkiller dicamba. That story from Ann Kenda with Arkansas Public Media.

BeekeepingDicamba.wav

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Calling it a painful decision, Richard Coy is ending the retail side of Crooked Creek Bee Company, which sold popular local honey products in Arkansas stores. Coy made the announcement on Facebook on New Year's Day.

RichardCoy1 :17 as of yesterday I've had 60K people that have seen that Facebook post, I've had multiple comments and phone calls from customers who are disappointed but they realize and are aware that it's a decision that we have to make.

Coy says it wasn't possible to stay in business because the weedkiller dicamba was damaging the vegetation bees need to live on.

RichardCoy2 :17 it does not directly kill the bees and the EPA states that in their findings, but it's the same aspect as if you're put in a room and someone puts a holds a gun to you and doesn't pull the trigger but doesn't feed you and eventually you die.

Even with the ban on dicamba announced in November 2017, some say some use is still taking place. The company that makes the product has attributed any alleged drift damage to user error and not dicamba itself. The plant board continues to debate seasonal cut off dates for the weedkiller. I'm AK with Arkansas Public Media.